In the Specification (Clean Copy)

On page 5, please replace the second full paragraph with the following:

In a second stage, the studies performed on the two purified proteins from *E. cuniculi* (55 and 35 kDa) comprised subjecting them to internal microsequencing after digestion with Endolysine C. Two peptides were sequenced in this manner (P1: ATALCSNAYGLTPGQQGMAC (SEQ ID No: 6) and P2: SATQYAMEACATPTP (SEQ ID No: 7)) for the 55-kDa protein and one peptide (P3: AVQGTDRCILAGIID (SEQ ID No.: 8)) for the 35-kDa protein. It was possible using degenerated primers to amplify a part of the corresponding genes.

A1

On page 17, please replace the fourth and fifth paragraphs with the following:

A2

The N-terminal sequence as well as two internal peptides (P1 (SEQ ID No: 6) and P2 (SEQ ID No: 7)) were sequenced for the PTP55 of *E. cuniculi*.

N-terminal: ATALCSNAYG (SEQ ID No: 9)

P1: ATALCSNAYGLTPGQQGMAQ (SEQ ID No: 6)

P2: SATQYAMEACATPTP (SEQ ID No: 7)

One internal peptide (P3) was sequenced for the PTP35.

P3: AVQGTDRCILAGIID (SEQ ID No: 8)

On page 18, please replace the second paragraph with the following:

A3

For the internal sequencing of the peptides P1 (SEQ ID No: 6), P2 (SEQ ID No: 8) and P3 (SEQ ID No: 7), the proteins were first digested by Endolysine C, proteolytic enzyme cutting after a lysine residue.

On page 19, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

A4

From degenerated primers deduced from the peptide P3 (SEQ ID No: 8), different fragments

were amplified by the SSP-PCR technique, cloned in a plasmidic vector pGEMT (Promega, TA cloning vector), sequenced according to Sanger's method and analyzed as described above.

On page 19, please replace the fourth and fifth paragraphs with the following:

A part of the PTP55 of *E. cuniculi* corresponding to the region between the peptides P1 (SEQ ID No: 6) and P2 (SEQ ID No: 7) was cloned in an expression vector pQE30 (Qiagen) and expressed in *E. coli* (strain M15). The recombinant protein was purified by affinity chromatography on nickel columns and injected in mice. The corresponding antibodies tested in immunoblotting, immunofluorescence and transmission electron microscopy made it possible to confirm that this protein was in fact localized at the level of the *E. cuniculi* polar tube.

A part of the PTP35 between the residues 27 and 277 of (SEQ ID No: 2) was also expressed in *E. coli* using the same technique. The antibodies produced against this recombinant protein exhibited a labeling of the polar tube.